Written submission from a Member of the Public (ANI0559)

1) DEVOLUTION
I am very uncomfortable with the idea that changes to abortion law should be decided outside of Northern Ireland without a referendum of the Northern Irish people or support of the NI Assembly

2) DISTINCTIVE LAW AND CULTURE
The very fact that abortion is not freely available in NI has meant that women here do not automatically consider termination of their unborn child as a ‘solution’.

Abortion is legal where the mother’s life is in danger. I believe better guidelines need issued to GPs as to what circumstances constitute endangering a mother’s life more clearly.

3) HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY
It is my strong belief that human life cannot be treated as property. To me that is going back in time and making the same mistakes that have been made in the past.

Let’s not forget that not that long ago women used to ‘legally’ be considered the property of their husband and that black people could be ‘owned’ by white people. Incidentally the majority of Northern Irish people opposed the slave trade despite Belfast being a port. I’m sure we were called ‘backward’ in the 18th century too.

As a mother myself, I could never consider a baby growing in my womb as ‘my property’ and thus that it was ‘my choice’ to dispose of at will. That is the backward view.

For the record I support gay marriage rights and changes to the law in that regard. I also am a feminist - where it means seeking equality with men and NOT aborting babies in the womb and calling it a ‘choice’. I’m sorry but when you consent to sex, you risk pregnancy. You had a choice, the unborn new human life in your stomach has none.

4) PERSONAL STORIES
I have a [relative] who fell pregnant at [14-18] and had her daughter at [14-18]. Her little girl is now [21-29] and training to be a [profession]. She is a credit to her mother. Her mother completed her GCSEs, completed a degree and is now [doing] exactly what she had wanted to do as a teenager. I am her daughter’s [relative] and I cannot imagine how much we would have lost if she had been aborted just because all seemed loss for a week or two [21-29] years ago. Crisis pregnancies can be supported because BOTH lives matter

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